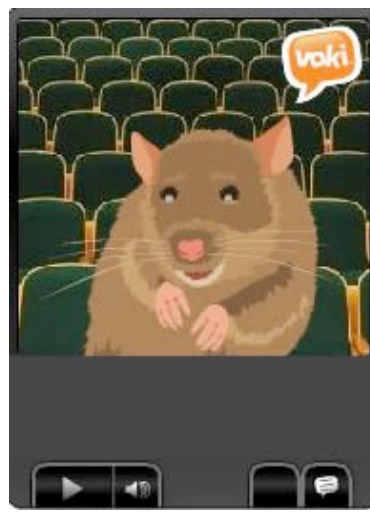


Voki Book Hooks



Overview

Hook your students to read with Voki book hooks! In this lesson, students will create a Voki, a talking avatar, which tells listeners about exciting or interesting parts of a book without giving away the ending.

Objectives

Students will:

- analyze book jacket blurbs
- write a script for a book hook that builds suspense and persuades others to read a book
- create a book character at www.voki.com
- read with fluency and expression

Materials

- SMARTboard or a Computer Projection Device hooked up to laptop or computer
- Internet access
- Student directions with scoring guide
- Computers or laptops for students with internet access
- A way for students to record audio (internal built in microphone, external microphones, or a digital voice recorder)

Preparation

1. Bookmark the Voki book hook examples at <http://getreal.wikispaces.com/Book+Character+Vokis>
2. Register for a free Voki account. Go to <http://www.voki.com>. Click on the Register button. Fill out the form. It requires an email address and a password. Because this account will be for your students to access and use, choose a password that is not personal and is easy for students to remember such as the class name or school mascot.

Register to Voki Now

1. Complete the registration form below
2. Activate your account by clicking on the confirmation link in the E-mail

Email: (An Activation Email will be sent to this Email Address)

Password: (Min 6 Characters)

Confirm Password:

Birthday: (mm/dd/yyyy)

* All Fields are Required

☐ I agree to Voki [terms and conditions](#)

3. Become familiar with how to make a Voki. Click on **Create** to get started. Follow the easy steps to customize the character, give it a voice, and add a background. Click on **Publish** when you are done. Your Voki will be saved in **My Voki**. After you have published a Voki, you can always go back and edit it. Note: If you do not give your Voki a voice it will not allow you to publish.
4. Find 2-4 chapter books that have effective book blurbs. Look for book blurbs that give the reader some information about the book but most importantly hook readers into wanting to read the book. Here are some examples of effective book blurbs:

Swindle

by Gordon Korman

When Griffen Bing plans a spooky sleepover in a haunted house that's about to be demolished, he isn't planning on making a fortune. But then he discovers something more valuable than gold: a rare Babe Ruth baseball card, hidden out of view for many years.

Griffen's on his way to a million dollars...until mean collector named S. Wendell Palomino (a.k.a. Swindle) tricks him out of the card. Now Griffen must put together a team of friends (an one or two enemies) in order to get the card back. There are many things standing in their way – a menacing guard dog, a high – tech security system, a very secret hiding place, and the fact that none of them can drive. But Griffen is a Man With a Plan, and even if some things go way beyond his control, he's not going to let his fortune go without a fight.

The Fabled Fourth Graders of Aesop Elementary School

by Candace Fleming

Take Calvin Tallywong. He wants to go back to kindergarten, but he should be careful what he wishes for! When Calvin actually gets the chance, he's forced to do the squirrel dance and wear a yellow school but name tag. How will he ever escape?

And then there's Amisha Spelwadi, who can spell wildebeest, no problemo. She's sure she'll ace her spelling test, but...she shouldn't count her chickens before they're hatched! Suddenly, Amisha is given a really tricky word.

Luckily, these students and their classmates, like Ham Samitch (who loves to eat) and Victoria Sovaine (who loves herself), have a dinosaur-digging, Mayan-ceremonial-robe-wearing teacher named Mr. Jupiter to guide them.

So put on your wackiest outfit for Picture Day, help yourself to some yak and cheese, and get read some hilarious modern-day fables, complete with morals. Who knows what you might learn?

Lesson Procedure

Introduction:

Introduce the Voki project to the students. Show them examples of Voki book hooks at <http://getreal.wikispaces.com/Book+Character+Vokis>. Ask students *“Do these make you want to read the books? Isn’t this cool? Wouldn’t you like to make one of these, too?”* (You can either have students create a Voki book hook for a book they’ve already read, a book they are currently reading, or provide an opportunity to select a book that they will read with this project in mind)

After students have selected and read their books:

1. Ask students, *“Why do books have blurbs on the back or inside the front cover?”* Read the book blurbs to students. Ask them *“Does this make you want to read the book? Why? What hooked you? What was good? What stood out? How are they persuading us? What strategies are they using?”* List student responses on a chart titled **“How to Persuade Others to Read a Book”**. (see example on page 5 of this lesson)
2. Listen again to the Voki book hooks at <http://getreal.wikispaces.com/Book+Character+Vokis>. Discuss the effectiveness of each Voki. *“Do you want to read the book? Why? What else did they use besides words? What is cool about these? What do you notice? Do they build suspense? How?”* Discuss the choices the creator of the Voki made for the character and background. Discuss how the creator used his or her voice effectively.
3. Whole class, write a script for a book that you’ve read together. First, decide on the character for the Voki. Then, think about that character’s perspective. Some things to consider are: What would he or she talk about? Is there a problem, a mystery, or an adventure? What parts of the story are interesting, funny, or exciting that would make the listener want to read the book? How can we leave the listener in suspense?
4. Using a projection device or SMARTboard, create a Voki together. Have one of the students record the script onto the Voki.
5. Explain the directions and the scoring guide to the students. Use it to evaluate your whole class Voki. Be sure students have a copy as they write their scripts and create their Vokis independently.

6. Provide time for students to write their scripts using your normal writing process.
7. Once students have written their scripts, they can create their Vokis. Make sure that they sign in to your account and that the Vokis are published and saved in My Voki. If students have not finished, you can still publish the Vokis to be edited later. You will need to give it a voice first. Click on the keyboard key where it says **Give it a Voice**. Simply type in a couple of words (Like “Give me a Voice”) and click **Done**. This can be changed later. Click **Publish**.
8. After students create their Vokis, they record their script. They can record right into the Voki using a microphone (either built in to the computer or an external microphone). Students can rerecord as many times as they need to until they are satisfied. If you have digital voice recorders, students can record on those first and then upload them to Voki.

How to Edit a Voki

Go to **My Voki**. Click on the Voki you’d like to edit. It will appear on the left. Click on **Edit**. Be sure to click **Publish** when you are done making the changes.

Options for Publishing Your Vokis

Your Vokis can be emailed or embedded into a blog, webpage or a wiki.

To email, go to **My Voki**. Click on the Voki you wish to email. Click on **Send to a Friend**.

To embed into a blog, webpage or a wiki, go to **My Voki**. Click on the Voki that you wish to embed. Pull down where it says **Embed in:** and select an option. If you don’t see the name of your blog or wiki, click on **Other**. Next, choose either small or large next to **Size**. Click on **Get Code**. A window will pop up with a code. Copy the code. Go to your blog, wiki, or website and follow the directions for pasting the code.

Example of Chart and Script written by a 4th Grade Class

How to Persuade Others to Read a Book

Tell the interesting or exciting parts.

Write something interesting, instead of just "this book is about..."

Leave the reader/listener with a question that makes them want to find the answer.

Tell a little about what the story is about but not the end of the story.

Build suspense with words and your voice.

Sound like a real person by making your voice go up and down.

Read a little part of the book that pulls the reader in.

Our Script – The Witches, by Roald Dahl

Character: The Boy (as a mouse)

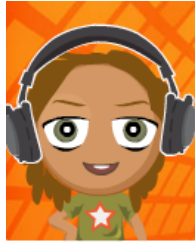
Huh, you think I'm a mouse? Do you believe in witches? I didn't used to believe in witches but I didn't use to be a mouse either! I got turned into a mouse by witches. I was turned into a mouse because I overheard the Grand High Witch's secret plan about killing every kid in England. If you see a woman with gloves on, be a little careful. If you see her scratching her head, and she looks a little bit too pretty, or if you see her sniffing you with her nose, watch out! If someone offers you free candy, be cautious, chocolate can be deadly! And remember to hand this note to your mother:

Dear Mom,

Witches are on the loose hunting for children who are clean. Never ever let your son or daughter take a shower or bath ever again. To be safe, kids should live in garbage cans.

Remember! Be very alert. A witch could be right across the street or even right behind you! Read The Witches to find out more.

Name_____Date_____



Voki Book Hook

Directions: Choose a book that you have read. Convince others to read the book! Write a script and make a Voki.

Your script must:

- Make others want to read your book
- Tell about interesting or exciting parts without giving the ending away
- Sound like something one of the characters might say

Your Voki must:

- Look like it could be one of the characters from the book
- Have a background that fits into the setting of the story
- Be fluent and expressive

To make your Voki, go to www.voki.com

Username_____

Password_____

Name _____ Date _____

Voki Book Hook Scoring Guide

4	3	2	1
<p>My Voki includes ALL of 3 plus:</p> <p>____ I included something extra creative like a song, a letter that you might send, a poem</p>	<p>My Voki includes ALL of the following:</p> <p>____ The script tells about interesting or exciting parts of the story without giving the ending away.</p> <p>____ Sounds like something one of the characters might say.</p> <p>____ The character looks like it could be one of the characters from the book.</p> <p>____ The character's background fits into the setting of the story.</p> <p>____ I read the script fluently and with expression.</p>	<p>My Voki does not include 2 or 3 of the following:</p> <p>____ The script tells about interesting or exciting parts of the story without giving the ending away.</p> <p>____ Sounds like something one of the characters might say.</p> <p>____ The character looks like it could be one of the characters from the book.</p> <p>____ The character's background fits into the setting of the story.</p> <p>____ I read the script fluently and with expression.</p>	<p>My Voki does not include 4 or more of the following:</p> <p>____ The script tells about interesting or exciting parts of the story without giving the ending away.</p> <p>____ Sounds like something one of the characters might say.</p> <p>____ The character looks like it could be one of the characters from the book.</p> <p>____ The character's background fits into the setting of the story.</p> <p>____ I read the script fluently and with expression.</p>

Score _____

Comments: